



INSTITUT NATIONAL
DE L'ORIGINE ET DE
LA QUALITÉ



Organic Farming

Quality associated with environment-friendly production methods and animal well-being

Organic Farming is a production method that combines optimal environmental practices; a respect for biodiversity, **the preservation of natural resources and the assurance of high levels of animal well-being.**

Throughout the food chain, operators engaged in production and processing activities are required to comply with rigorous specifications that favour pollutant-free farming methods and eco-system and animal friendly processes.

This production method excludes the use of GMOs, limits recourse to inputs and favours the use of natural and renewable resources within the framework of **farming systems organised at a local level.** The use of synthetic chemicals is severely restricted.

Finally, organically farmed products also **strengthen links with society as a whole**, by creating jobs, boosting participation in regional land management initiatives, and by preserving and promoting local know-how...

In short, Organic Farming means:

- a **sustainable management system** for agriculture,
- a comprehensive range of quality agricultural products and foodstuffs,
- a source of **agriculture-orientated** innovations within the context of an agro-ecological approach.

IN THE BEGINNING...

Organic Farming developed during **the Twenties** in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and England. It appeared in France during **the Fifties**. The desire to respect natural harmony and biodiversity in response to the onset of agricultural intensification, lies at the root of this initiative.

Its history has been marked by improved techniques; a growing interest on behalf of producers and consumers alike and the implementation of incentive-orientated public policies. The first private specification made its appearance in **1972**. France was one of the precursors. In 1980 the country acknowledged the benefits of "agriculture free from synthetic chemicals" and then in **1981** it approved and synchronised existing private specifications.

1991 was a key year for AB (Organic Farming) with the adoption of a regulation at European level for plant-based products. This was expanded to include the animal sector in **1999**. This regulation subsequently standardised practices in different Member States.

In **May 2013** the French Minister of Agriculture launched the "**Ambition Bio 2017**" programme. The announced objective was to give new impetus to the development and structuring of the sector by doubling organically farmed areas, and boosting French consumption of Organic Farming products.

KEY FIGURES*

+ 31 000 producers engaged in Organic Farming initiatives, that is to say **7.2 %** of farms in France (on 30th June 2016).

+ 5.5 billion Euros worth of organic products purchased for consumption in French households (2015).

65% of French people consume at least one organic product per month (2015).

**source: Agence BIO*

LEGISLATION

- EC regulation N° 834 / 2007 passed by the Council on 28th June 2007 relating to the production and labelling of organically farmed products and repealing EEC regulation N° 2092 / 91
- EC regulation N°889/2008 passed by the Commission on 5th September 2008 outlining detailed rules and regulations for producing, labelling and monitoring organically farmed products